

BRIEFS

GARLAND, Texas — RBI Golf, Inc. and course architect Richard Phelps have begun construction on the 27-hole \$6 million addition to Firewheel Golf Park here. Once complete, the course will incorporate many lakes as well as natural vegetation, including the "Firewheel" flower, for which it is named. Phelps and RBI have previously teamed up on 15 projects, including Saddle Rock in Aurora, Colo.

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PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. — Pawleys Plantation is working on \$500,000 in improvements to enhance its Jack Nicklaus-designed course. Improvements include installing a computer-controlled irrigation system and sulfur generator in the lake to lower the pH level in the water and soil.

...

LONDON — American Golf (UK) Ltd. (AG-UK) has purchased Chartham Park Golf Club located in East Grinstead, Sussex, for £1.785 million. "Chartham Park Golf Club is an extraordinary and high-quality facility that fits perfectly in our national and South-London cluster-group of golf courses and clubs," said Geary Leathers, AG-UK managing director.



SUNRIVER, Ore. — Classic elements of design and style that are the hallmarks of early golf course architects Alister Mackenzie and Donald Ross reportedly were captured by John Fought in his newly opened redesign of Sunriver Resort's Meadows golf course, particularly in the placement and design of the bunkers.

"This was not a facelift," said Fought, former PGA Tour professional and 1977 U.S. Amateur champion. "The Meadows is

a completely new course built within the general framework of the old Meadows course, with a change in par, new greens and a spectacular bunkering strategy."

"Our goal was to produce a course that will measure up against any course in the region," said Sean Cracraft, director of golf for Sunriver's Meadows and Woodlands golf courses. "Meadows is a modern golf course, built with the latest technology, designed in traditional, classic style."

The course opened June 30 after a \$3.2

million renovation that included complete replacement of all 18 greens, addition and replacement of bunkers and tees, renovation of all fairways and strategic redesign of selected holes. New irrigation and a maintenance facility were also included in the project.

"Meadows is like a Brooks Brothers shirt or a pair of khakis updated for the new century," Fought said. "With this redesign, the Meadows is still a solid,

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Changes afoot at GCN editorial offices

YARMOUTH, Maine — *Golf Course News* Publisher Charles von Brecht has announced several changes in the editorial and advertising staffs at the newspaper, including promotions of Mark Leslie and Peter Blais.

Leslie, the longtime managing editor, has been named editor, succeeding Michael Levans, who



Michael Levans
Western sales rep

has taken over the Western territory on the sales staff after two years at the editorial helm of *Golf Course News*. Meanwhile, Blais, the associate editor for nine years, has assumed the managing editor post and Andrew Overbeck has been named associate editor.

The three will work in those

same capacities with *Golf Course News International* (GCNI), a bi-monthly newspaper which covers the golf industry outside North America.

Leslie has been with *Golf Course News* (GCN) since its inception in 1989. Before that, he worked in various editorial capacities with the Lewiston and Portland daily and Sunday newspapers in Maine. A 1971 graduate of the University of Maine in journalism, he has won a national award for his golf writing.

Blais joined GCN after a 5 1/2-year

stint as a sports and business writer with the *Central Maine Morning Sentinel*.

He has earned a master's degree in business administration from Western State College, a bachelor's degree in English from the University of New Hampshire.

As managing editor, Blais will continue to focus on the course management aspects of the golf industry and be responsible for day-to-day operations at GCN.

Overbeck joined GCN as an interna-

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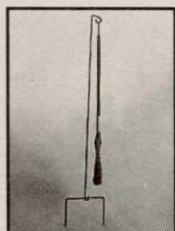
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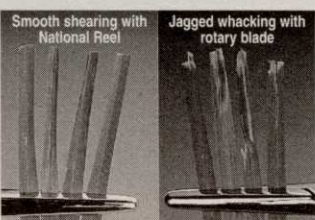
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Turfgrass America

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marketplace, we knew that we were strong in Texas," said Arthur Milberger, president of Milberger turf and sports field division for Turfgrass America. "But in order to do some of the things that we envision for the 21st century we recognized that we needed to expand outside of our region and that we needed to have brand names across the U.S. in warm season and some cool-season grasses."

Turfgrass America now has more than 30 warm-season varieties, including Bermuda, buffalo and zoysia, in the marketplace, 10 farms, nine retail outlets and more than 500 employees across Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida.

According to Milberger, the company will be focusing its expansion around the golf turf market and the wide array of services it offers.

"Golf is the fastest-growing market for us," said Milberger. "And now we can do virtually any job anywhere, be it washed turf on a green, sand-based turf or solid sod fairways."

However, Milberger is also working to position Turfgrass America to take advantage of the golf course renovation market that he expects will pick up in the coming years.

"The golf market is getting more and more competitive. Instead of giving away free martinis, courses are going to have to provide better fairways and greens than the course down the street," said Milberger. "That's why we are working to develop the new varieties that we are coming out with right now."

Turfgrass America produces several of the new "superdwarf" Bermudas, including TiffEagle, Floradwarf, MS-Supreme and Thomas Brothers' own Mini-Verde.



"A lot of people still have bentgrass greens, but there is a huge drift of people coming over to these improved Bermudas," said Milberger. "We are putting 12 different Bermudas on golf courses at the moment."

While the market for new Bermudas is strong, Turfgrass America will

also continue to work with the new bent varieties.

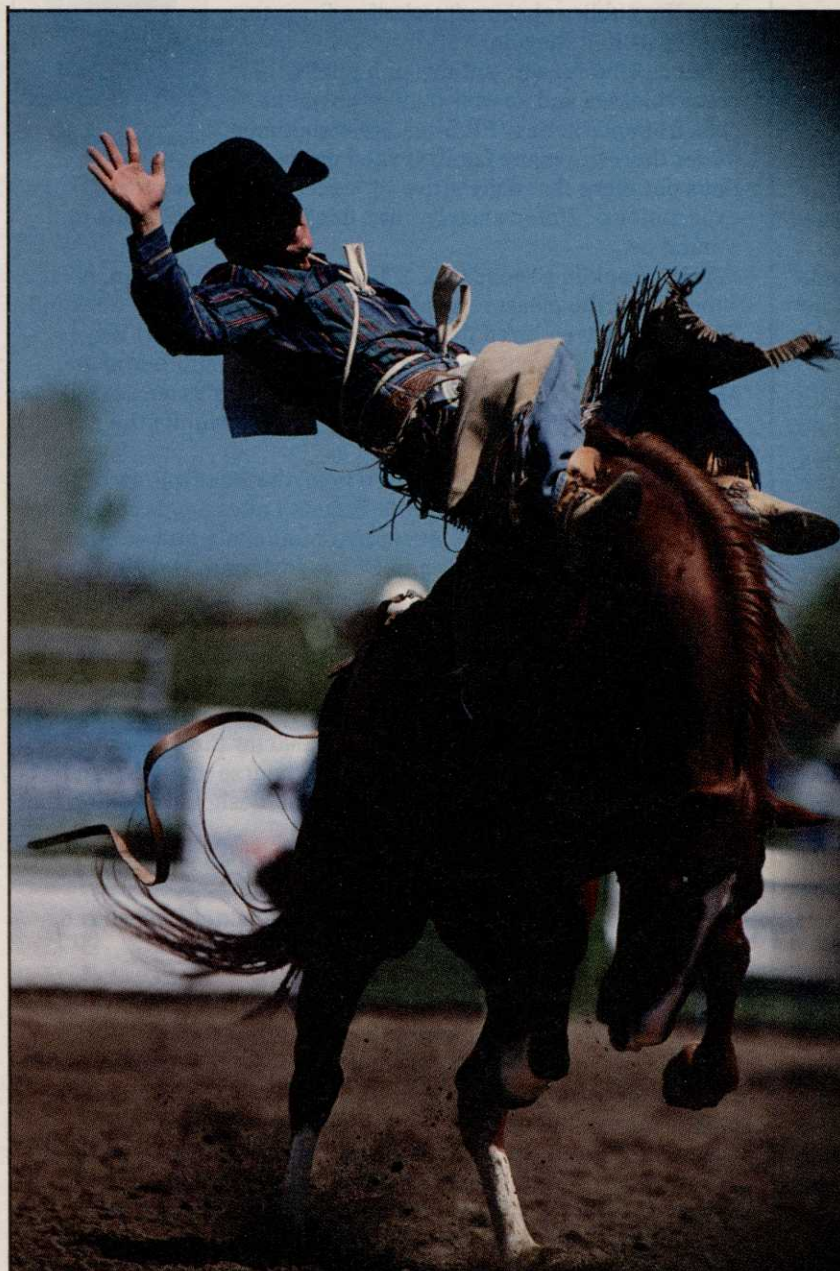
"We grow very little bentgrass at the moment, but we are working to up the ante on that production as well," said Milberger.

With that in mind, the company is looking to expand.

"We will be looking at new farm sites, but the object is to go out and acquire only if it makes good sense," said Milberger.

Olson designing in New Mexico, Nevada

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. — Cal Olson Golf Architects is busy with two golf courses under construction — Sonoma Ranch in Las Cruces, N.M., and Mountain Falls in Pahrump, Nev. — while Diamond Hill in Fontana is expected to start construction in October. Sierra Star Resort in Mammoth Lakes was completed last year and will open this summer. Olson is also remodeling El Dorado Golf Course in Long Beach, Calif., by adding and improving on the water features and bunkers and extending the yardage.



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Sunriver

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entertaining, welcoming course."

Fought added: "I've spent a great deal of time studying and admiring the bunker designs of some of the classic courses like [Ross-designed] Pinehurst #2. At the Meadows I've been able to employ some of this traditional styling into bunker shaping and placement."

Of the three golf layouts available to Sunriver Resort guests, the Meadows is the most accessible to less-experienced players. The Woodlands, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., and Crosswater, Oregon's top-rated golf course and one of *Golf Digest's* America's Greatest 100 courses, offer a stiffer challenge to recreational golfers.